REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 25, 2008, and made final, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2004/0243530 to Al-Attar et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Al-Attar") is respectfully traversed.

Al-Attar describes a process development systems (4) and related methods, including a process development system. The process development system includes a performance improvement rule generation module (9) for generating a performance improvement rule set for at least one process factor from a generated rule set for the at least one process factor. Each rule includes a plurality of decision points corresponding to split variables relating to process conditions and a plurality of outcomes. The performance improvement rule generation module (9) is configured, for each rule from each generated rule set, to attach an activity flag at each decision point and thereby generate a performance improvement rule. The activity flag has one of two values indicative of whether the respective split variable is alterable or non-alterable by a process operator such as to enable operation of the performance improvement rule in determining which of the outcomes is attainable for given process conditions. Notably, Al-Attar does not describe testing at least one rule **incrementally** using selected asset data and by comparing each asset output to each respective expected asset output, wherein the test comprises at least one step, and **displaying incremental results of the at least one step.**

Claim 1 recites a computer-implemented method of managing a machinery monitoring system, the method including "relating an asset output to at least one asset input wherein the at least one asset input includes at least one of a measured process parameter and a derived process parameter relatable to the asset output . . . generating at least one rule based on the relation wherein the at least one rule defines the asset output based on the at least one asset input . . . selecting at least one of live asset data, historical asset data, user-supplied asset data, and third party supplied asset data . . . determining an expected asset output for the selected data . . . testing the at least one rule incrementally using the selected asset data . . . determining an expected asset output for the selected data . . . comparing each asset output to

each respective expected asset output, wherein the test comprises at least one step . . . monitoring the output of the at least one rule at each increment . . . displaying incremental results of the at least one step . . . outputting a test result."

Al-Attar does not describe nor suggest a computer-implemented method of managing a machinery monitoring system as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, Al-Attar does not describe a method that includes testing at least one rule incrementally using selected asset data and by comparing each asset output to each respective expected asset output, wherein the test comprises at least one step, and displaying incremental results of the at least one step. The Examiner alleges that Al-Attar describes testing at least one rule incrementally using the selected asset data at paragraph [0015]. Applicants respectfully disagree. Rather, Applicants respectfully submit that Al-Attar describes that a rule verification module includes a rule test sub-module that uses an extracted data set to satisfy that each rule is satisfied by the extracted data set and thereafter displays the final result of the test. That is, Al-Attar describes a process to ensure that each rule is satisfied and displays a final result as to whether each rule has been satisfied. However, nowhere does Al-Attar describe nor suggest testing at least one rule incrementally using selected asset data and by comparing each asset output to each respective expected asset output, wherein the test comprises at least one step, and displaying incremental results of the at least one step. That is, each incremental step result of the test is displayed, not merely the final result as described in Al-Attar. Thus, Al-Attar merely describes a check used to ensure that a rule is satisfied by the extracted data set only once and displaying a final result of the check, but does not describe nor suggest testing at least one rule incrementally using selected asset data and by comparing each asset output to each respective expected asset output, wherein the test comprises at least one step, and displaying incremental results of the at least one step as recited in Claim 1.

Claims 10-13 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 10-13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 10-13 likewise are patentable over Al-Attar.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1 and 10-13 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 2-9 and 14-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Al-Attar in view of U.S. Publication No. 2006/0265689 to Kuznetsov et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Kuznetsov") is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2-9 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1 as detailed above, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-9 are patentable over Al-Attar in view of Kuznetsov.

Al-Attar is described above.

Kuznetsov describes a computing system environment 100. Computing system environment 100 includes a computer network 101, such as the Internet, that interconnects and allows communications between a markup language processing device 120 and one or more client computer systems 130. Kuznetsov further describes a server computer system 10 in communication with a markup language processing device 120 via network 102, that may be a local area network (LAN) associated (e.g., under management of) an organization that controls server computer systems 110 (as well as the markup language processing device 120). The server computer system(s) 110 and client computer system(s) 130 may be any number and type of computerized devices such as a personal computers, workstations, server computer systems, dedicated devices (e.g., portables, PDA's) or the like. Notably, Kuznetsov does not describe nor suggest testing a rule based on at least one of live asset data, historical asset data, user-supplied asset data, and third party supplied data, wherein the test includes comparing the real-time output to an expected real-time output, comparing each asset output to each respective expected asset output, and displaying incremental results of the test.

Claim 15 recites a computer-implemented machinery monitoring system for a plant, the system including a client system further including "a user interface . . . a database for storing Rule Sets, wherein the Rule Sets include at least one rule expressed as a relational expression of a real-time data output relative to a real-time data input that includes at least one of a measured process parameter and a derived process parameter relatable to the real-time data output, wherein the relational expression is specific to a plant asset, and . . . a processor programmed to control said machinery monitoring system to, said processor manager programmed to prompt a user for a security control password . . . generate a plant asset operational rule from an application expert wherein the operational rule defines the real-

time data output based on the at least one real-time data input . . . test said rule based on at least one of live asset data, historical asset data, user-supplied asset data, and third party supplied data . . . wherein the test includes comparing the real-time output to an expected real-time output, and wherein the test comprises at least one step . . . display incremental results of the at least one step . . . output a test result."

No combination of Al-Attar and Kuznetsov describes nor suggests testing a rule based on at least one of live asset data, historical asset data, user-supplied asset data, and third party supplied data, wherein the test includes comparing the real-time output to an expected real-time output, and wherein the test comprises at least one step, and displaying incremental results of the at least one step. Al-Attar merely describes a rule verification module including a rule test sub-module that utilizes an extracted data set to satisfy that each rule is satisfied by the extracted data set. That is, Al-Attar describes a process to ensure that each rule is satisfied and thereafter displays the final result of the test. Nowhere does Al-Attar describe nor suggest testing a rule based on at least one of live asset data, historical asset data, user-supplied asset data, and third party supplied data, wherein the test includes comparing the real-time output to an expected real-time output, and wherein the test comprises at least one step, and displaying incremental results of the at least one step. That is, each incremental step result of the test is displayed, not merely the final result as described in Al-Attar. Further, Kuznetsov merely describes a computing system environment that includes a computer network, such as the Internet, that interconnects and allows communications between a markup language processing device and one or more client computer systems. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Al-Attar in view of Kuznetsov.

Claims 16-28 depend from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claims 16-28 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 16-28 likewise are patentable over Al-Attar in view of Kuznetsov.

Claim 29 recites a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for managing a machinery monitoring system using a server system coupled to a client system and a database, the client system including a user interface, the program comprising a code segment that prompts a user for a security control password and then "relates an asset output to at least one asset input that includes at least one of a measured process parameter and a

derived process parameter relatable to the asset output . . . generates a plant asset operational rule from an application expert wherein the operational rule defines an asset output based on at least one asset input . . . tests said rule based on at least on of live asset data, historical asset data, user-supplied asset data, and third party supplied data wherein the testing includes comparing the asset output to a respective expected asset output, wherein the test comprises at least one step . . . displays incremental results of the at least one step, and . . . outputs said results of said test."

No combination of Al-Attar and Kuznetsov describes nor suggests testing a rule based on at least one of live asset data, historical asset data, user-supplied asset data, and third party supplied data, wherein the test includes comparing the real-time output to an expected real-time output, and wherein the test comprises at least one step, and displaying incremental results of the at least one step. Al-Attar merely describes a rule verification module including a rule test sub-module that utilizes an extracted data set to satisfy that each rule is satisfied by the extracted data set. That is, Al-Attar describes a process to ensure that each rule is satisfied and thereafter displays the final result of the test. Nowhere does Al-Attar describe nor suggest testing a rule based on at least one of live asset data, historical asset data, user-supplied asset data, and third party supplied data, wherein the test includes comparing the real-time output to an expected real-time output, and wherein the test comprises at least one step, and displaying incremental results of the at least one step. That is, each incremental step result of the test is displayed, not merely the final result as described in Al-Attar. Further, Kuznetsov merely describes a computing system environment that includes a computer network, such as the Internet, that interconnects and allows communications between a markup language processing device and one or more client computer systems. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 29 is submitted to be patentable over Al-Attar in view of Kuznetsov.
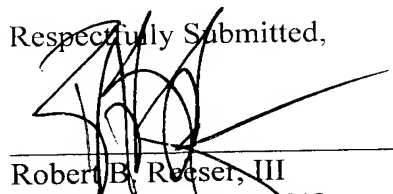
Claims 30-42 depend from independent Claim 29. When the recitations of Claims 30-42 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 29, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 30-42 likewise are patentable over Al-Attar in view of Kuznetsov.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 2-9 and 14-42 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Applicants do not believe any fees are due in connection with this amendment; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 012384 in the name of ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP.

Respectfully Submitted,

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